becomes inoperative. They feel that they have been deprived. And, therefore, in such cases rupee trade does not become operative. And Bangladsesh felt it because we had rupee trade with them after their independence, and that is why we have been doing it in free foreign exchange system and that too in the A.C.U. concept where this problem is not there because whosoever is in surplus that particular aspect is being repaid by free foreign exchange.

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL MATTO: One minute. For instance, we export to them goods worth Rs. 1200 crores and they export to us goods worth Rs. 1000 crores. We have thus got Rs. 200 crores surplus. But the extent of Rs. 1000 crores, they have been benefited because they have not paid in foreign exchange. Can you make such an offer to them?

SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI: It is not offer. The difficulty is that in respect of the Soviet Union there is a centralised, planned economy, and a certain amount of ...(Interruptions) In such countries of the SAARC as you have mentioned, they have prices private trading sector and a little of the Government control. So, this kind of total command that if you give me Rs 2,000 crores, I will match it by 2,000 crores of rupees is impossible for them to predict. And I cannot offer suo moto that I will offer you so and so and you offer me so and so. I may not need those items which they like to offer. It is impossible to balance.

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Sir, as far as the rupee trade is concerned, is there any information with the Government that our goods are sold and changing hands on deepsea waters for hard currency and at higher prices? If so, what steps are taken by the Government to see that the benefit comes to the Government of India?

SHRI P R. DAS MUNSHI: In so far as rupee trade countries are concerned, such things do not exist. Our STC is permitted to have such kind of sale, with a better bargaining power, to other countries where rupee trade arrangements are not available.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 187.

Vehicles of Assam rifles involved in smuggling of narcotics

*187. DR. R. K. PODDAR:†
SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Narcotics Control Bureau had informed the Union Home Ministry about the involvement of Assam Rifles vehicles in smuggling of narcotics from Burma; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Two personnel of Assam Rifles, a Lance Naik and a Corporal, were reported to be involved in a seizure of 20 gms of heroin effected on 10-5-88 at Shillong, and in connection therewith both were arrested.

DR. R. K. PODDAR: Sir, the Government's reply is somewhat evasive and, therefore, completely unsatisfactory. There was a report in the 'Hindu' on the 10th of July this year, and there were specific allegations that Assam Rifles vehicles were used for this smuggling of heroin drugs. And these drugs, as the report says, appear to be of a finer quality. They can be injected intravenously whereas those which come from the Pakistan border are of a lower quality. Now, I would like to know specifically as to who arrested these Assam Rifles Jawans, the Assam Rifles authorities or the Narcotics Control Bureau, and when they were arrested whether

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Dr. R. K. Poddar.

they were arrested while smuggling or afterwards.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, there is no report of any Assam Rifles vehicle having been used by these two persons or anyone else in smuggling. These two were arrested by the local police with the help of Assam Rifles and a case has been registered, a complaint has been lodged...

DR. R. K. PODDAR: When they were arrested?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: They were arrested on the 10th May, 1988 at Shillong.

DR. R. K. PODDAR: Under what circumstances?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, they were reported to be involved in a seizure of 20 grams of heroin. They were arrested. A case has been registered. The case is under investigation. After the case is investigated, I shall be able to furnish further information.

DR. R. K. PODDAR: As you know, Sir, these drugs and terrorism are inter-connected, and they have coined a new term—narco-terrorism. And narcotics smugglers have infiltrated in the highest places of the Government of the imperialist countries. You know, Sir, Iran-Contra affair. And some time ago, a British newspaper reported and they personally named some Asian and Latin American dictators personally involved in this drug trafficking. So, we should not be complacent. I would like to know from the Government how serious they are and what steps they are taking so that such infiltration does not occur in our country.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, we have taken a number of steps to fight the menace of drug traffic. We have reported to the House earlier that there is a Standing Committee of the Cabinet headed by the Home Minister which monitors our drive against drug trafficking. Recently, Parliament passed a law introducing preventive detention for drug traffickers. A Bill is pending to amend the Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances Act. The Narcotics Control Bureau, is under the control of the Ministry of Finance. So, I am able to give only broad details. If more information is necessary about the drive against drugs and narcotic substances, I would appeal to the hon. Member to address the question to the Ministry of Finance.

श्री सुरेन्दजीत सिंह अहलुवालिया : सभापति जी, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूंगा कि अभी 15 दिन पहले नागालैंड में एक आर्मी आफिसर के पास से तीन करोड़ रु० की हेरोइन पकड़ी गई है, तो क्या उस आर्मी आफिसर को एरेस्ट किया गया है या नहीं ? और क्योंकि मैं उस वक्त नागालैंड में था, मैंने वहां के अखबारों से और वहां के आफिसरों से जाना कि एक आर्मी आफिसर के पोजैशन से 3 करोड़ की हेरोइन पकड़ी गई है, इसके बारे में क्या मंत्री महोदय को जानकारी है ?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, a large number of seizures have been made from time to time. I am not aware of the facts of this particular case. But, as I said, the Narcotics Control Bureau, is under the Ministry of Finance. If NCB has arrested him, the Ministry of Finance will be in a position to answer. If the Police of Nagaland have arrested him, I will have to get the information from the Government of Nagaland.

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister, though he is right in saying that large seizures are made from time to time, whether it has come to his notice that with a change of regime in Burma, there is a positive change in the quantity and total drug traffic in what is called the golden triangle, and whether the Government has initiated special steps after the change of regime in Burma to see that smuggling does not reach the alarming proportions which it will be impossible to control, specially infiltrating into our rifled or armed forces on the border.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, it is true that the Indo-Burma border is extremely vulnerable to smuggling, particularly smuggling of drugs and other psychotropic substances. As far as the Ministry of Home Affairs is concerned, we have given strict instructions to the BSF, which is there on the border, as well as the Assam Rifles, which is in some parts of the border areas to be very vigilant against smuggling. As I said, the drive against smuggling which was started with renewed vigour about six months ago under the direction of the Cabinet Sub-Committee, has yielded very good results. I do not have the figures with me unfortunately, but, I am sure, if you will address a question to the Ministry of Finance, they will place before you the tremendous results which have been achieved as a result of the drive which was launched six months ago.

*188. (*The questioner (Shrimati Kanak Mukherjee) was absent. For answer* vide *Col.* 35 infra)

*189. (*The questioners (Shri Lal K. Advani and Shri Ashwani Kumar) were absent. For answer* vide *Col.* 36 infra)

Entry of Burmese students into Mizoram

*190. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a certain number of Burmese students have crossed into the Indian territory and entered into Mizoram;

(b) if so, what is their number as at present; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) Following recent disturbances in Burma, Burmese nationals including students have been crossing over to India since September 24, 1988. As on 19th November, 1988, a total of 227 refugees including students have arrived in India. Out of these, 143 refugees, almost all students, have taken shelter in Mizoram.

(c) In keeping with the Indian traditions, it was decided that the Burmese nationals seeking refugee may be allowed to stay on Indian soil temporarily.

SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Sir, while appreciating the Indian tradition of allowing the refugees to stay on the Indian soil temporarily, I want to say that foreign students or foreign nationals have no right to call any meetings in our country and it is learnt from the concerned sources that in Mizoram these students are holding meetings. I would like to know whether the hon. Minister is aware of this fact and whether any arrests have been done for holding these meetings.

SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, strict vigilance is kept on the camps where they are kept and we do take steps to see that they do not mix up with the masses and general population. There was one incident when four persons had intruded into the camps, not the refugees, they wanted to create a certain situation and appropriate steps have been taken against them by the State Government.

SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Sir, my second supplementary is that the Peoples Conference of Mizoram, which is the largest regional party, this party is helping the Burmese students. Now I want to know from the hon. Minister in what respects...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.